818 Reference Audio Core
User Guide

Important safety instructions

- Read the instructions.
- Keep these instructions.
- Follow all instructions.
- Do not use this apparatus near water.
- Clean only with a dry cloth.
- Install only in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Refer all servicing to approved service personnel.

WARNING: TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE OR ELECTRIC SHOCK, DO NOT EXPOSE THIS APPARATUS TO RAIN OR MOISTURE.

This apparatus has been designed with Class 1 construction and must be connected to a mains socket outlet with a protective earthing connection (the third grounding pin).

This apparatus uses a single-pole power switch. As a result it is not isolated from AC mains power when switched off at the rear panel. The apparatus may be isolated from mains power either by unplugging the power connector from the rear of the unit, or by unplugging the connector at the opposing end of the power cord or cable from its supply outlet. As a result, either or both of these connectors should remain accessible.

Safety warnings

- Do not expose the unit to dripping or splashing.
- Do not place any object filled with liquid, such as a vase, on the unit.
- Do not place naked flame sources, such as lighted candles, on the unit.

To avoid overheating

- Leave at least 10cm around the equipment to ensure sufficient ventilation.

Do not position the unit:

- In direct sunlight.
- Near heat sources, such as a radiator.
- Directly on top of heat producing equipment, such as a power amplifier.

To avoid interference

Do not position the unit:

- Near strong electrical or magnetic radiation, such as near a power amplifier.

Radio interference

FCC Warning: This equipment generates and can radiate radio frequency energy and if not installed and used correctly in accordance with our instructions may cause interference to radio communications or radio and television reception. It has been type-tested and complies with the limits set out in Subpart J, Part 15 of FCC rules for a Class B computing device. These limits are intended to provide reasonable protection against such interference in home installations.

EEC: This product has been designed and type-tested to comply with the limits set out in EN55013 and EN55020.

CE

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Copyright and acknowledgements

Sales and service in the UK

Meridian Audio Ltd
Latham Road
Huntingdon
Cambridgeshire
PE29 6YE
England

Tel (01480) 445678
Fax (01480) 445686

Sales and service in the USA

Meridian America Inc.
110 Greene Street, Suite #407
New York
NY 10012
USA

Tel (646) 66 0140
Fax (646) 66 0152

Designed and manufactured in the UK

Meridian Audio Ltd
Latham Road
Huntingdon
Cambridgeshire
PE29 6YE
England

Visit us on the Web

http://www.meridian-audio.com

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Introduction

Welcome to the Meridian 818 Reference Audio Core.

This User Guide provides full information about using the 818 in conjunction with your other equipment, to achieve the superb results you can expect from it.

The 818 Reference Audio Core

Incorporating the advanced technology from Meridian's popular 808 Signature Reference CD Player, the Meridian 818 Reference Audio Core is a stereo audio controller with a wide range of digital and analogue inputs.

Outputs

The 818 Reference Audio Core provides two Meridian SpeakerLink connectors for simple, straightforward connection to Meridian DSP Loudspeakers via Cat 5 cables.

Alternatively, balanced and unbalanced analogue outputs are provided for connecting to an external power amplifier or preamplifier.

The digital outputs support MHR (Meridian High Resolution) and operate at up to 96kHz 24-bit.

Inputs

On the input side, the 818 Reference Audio Core provides a wide range of possibilities.

The 818 Reference Audio Core provides a network socket to connect directly to a Sooloos network, allowing it to play music from and control a Sooloos Digital Media System.

Three SpeakerLink inputs are provided for connecting to other Meridian sources with SpeakerLink outputs. In addition, three digital coaxial S/PDIF inputs and five Toslink optical digital inputs are provided, for connecting to other digital sources. All digital inputs operate at sample rates up to 96kHz.

A USB B-type connector is provided to allow the 818 Reference Audio Core to be connected to a computer system and used as an external sound card.

Six stereo analogue inputs are provided on gold-plated phono connectors.

Audio processing

The 818 Reference Audio Core features high-quality audio processing. Analogue inputs are converted to digital at 96kHz sampling, and digital inputs accept signals up to 96kHz. High resolution files may be replayed from a Meridian Sooloos Digital Media System or a computer connected to the USB input.

Signals are processed with Meridian's exclusive apodising filter that ensures maximum audio quality with outputs at 96kHz/24 bit (digital) or 192kHz/24 bit (analogue).

When used with Meridian DSP Speakers, the 818 Reference Audio Core provides additional audio processing in the speakers, such as treble and bass tone controls and enhanced room boundary equalisation.

System integration

An RS232 interface provides full remote control capability as well as the ability to configure the unit with Meridian's innovative Windows-based graphic configuration application.

Three programmable trigger outputs are provided for direct control of external devices, for example powering-up amplifiers, etc.

The 818 Reference Audio Core is supplied with the MSR+ learning/programmable remote control, which not only operates all Meridian products but also includes an extensive database of third-party products and the capability to learn commands from existing remotes.

Specifications

Audio outputs

- 2-channel balanced audio output.
- 2-channel unbalanced audio output.
- 2-channel digital coax output.
- Two 2-channel Meridian SpeakerLink outputs.
- Optional MHR encryption on digital outputs at high rate.

Audio inputs

- Six 2-channel unbalanced analogue inputs. Adjustable sensitivity.
- Three 2-channel digital coax inputs. 44.1kHz to 96kHz sampling and up to 24-bit precision.
- Three 2-channel Meridian SpeakerLink inputs. 44.1kHz to 96kHz sampling and up to 24-bit precision.
- Five 2-channel digital optical inputs. 44.1kHz to 96kHz sampling and up to 24-bit precision.
- One network input (Ethernet) for connection to a Meridian Sooloos Digital Media System.
- One USB input, for connection to a computer. Up to 192kHz sampling and up to 24-bit precision.
- All inputs provide renameable legends.

Signal processing

The 818 uses Meridian's proprietary DSP software to provide the following powerful features:

- Apodising filter.
- Upsampling.
- FIFO and error correction.
- Resolution enhancement.

Controls

Front-panel facia controls for:

- Source, Play/Pause, Previous, Next, Mute, Volume Up and Down, and On/Off.

A hinged control panel provides additional controls for:

- Volume +/-, Source, Display, Mute, Setup, Fast Forward/Reverse, and Menu keys.

Display

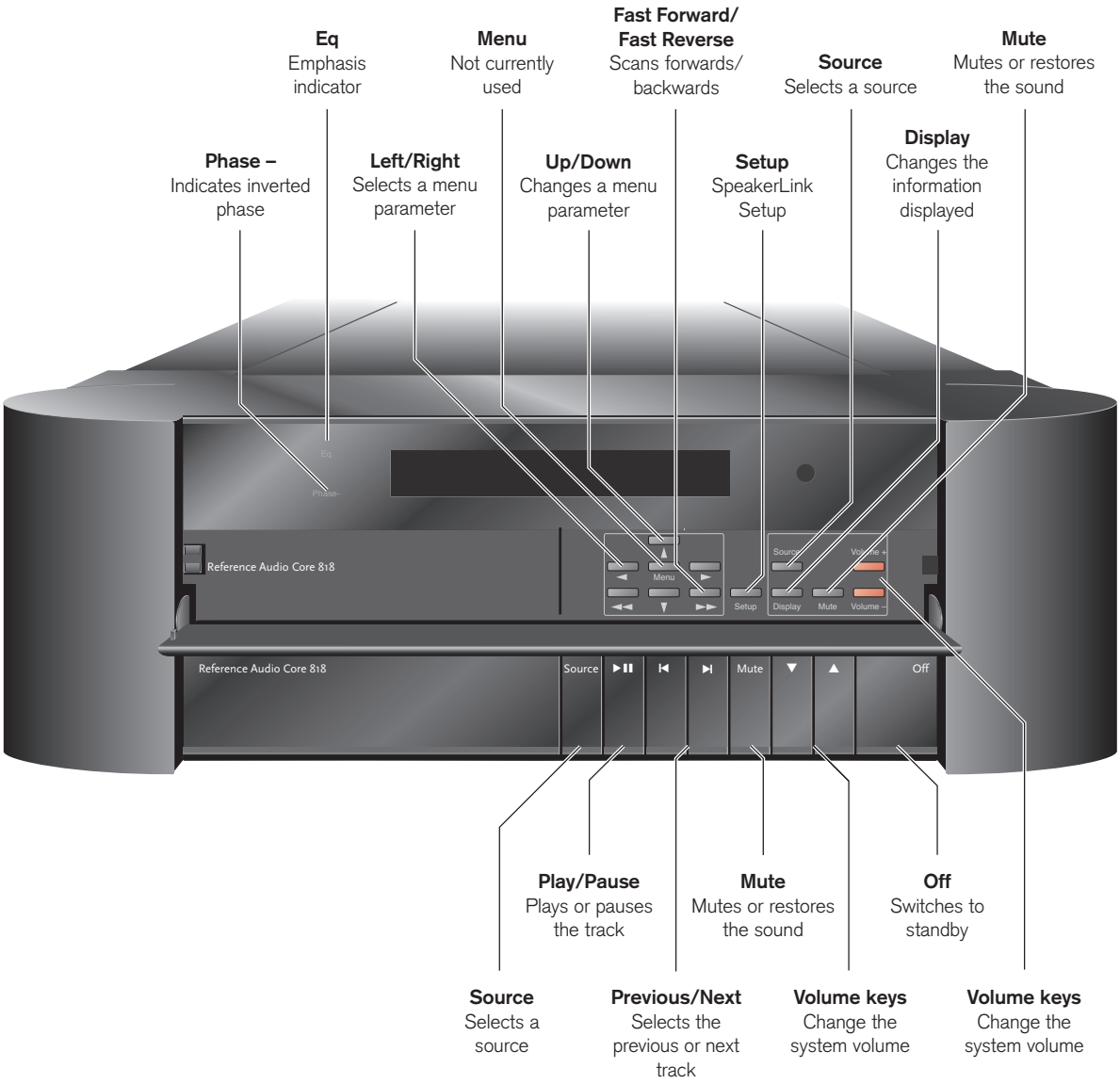
- 20-character dot-matrix display with adjustable brightness and contrast.
- Indicators for Emphasis and Phase.

Using the 818 Reference Audio Core

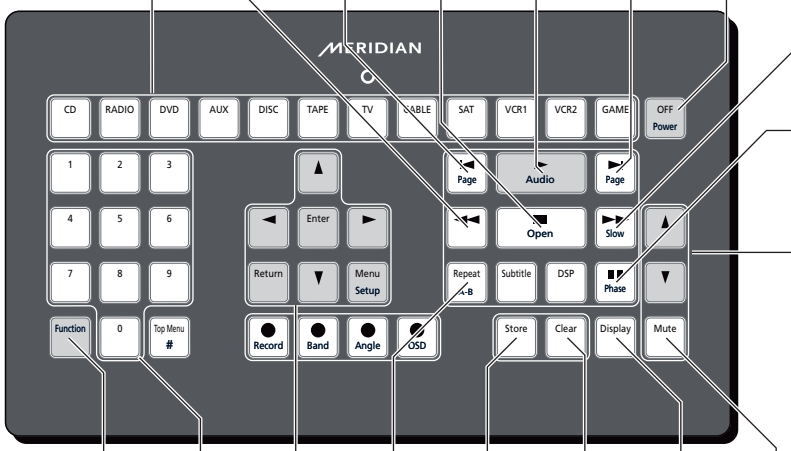
This chapter provides a summary of the functions of the 818 Reference Audio Core to identify the controls you use to operate the unit.

It also provides step-by-step instructions for operating the 818, using either the front panel or the MSR+.

Front panel keys



MSR+ keys



Source keys
Select a source

Previous
Selects the previous track

Play
Plays the track

OFF
Switches to standby

Fast reverse
Scans backwards

Stop
Stops the track

Next
Selects the next track

Fast forward
Scans forwards

Pause
Pauses the track

Volume keys
Change the volume

Number keys
Select a track by number

Repeat
Repeats a track/album

A-B
Repeats a section

Clear
Clears a selection

Mute
Mutes or restores the sound

Function
Selects a special function

Menu keys
Select or change the balance, phase, contrast, or brightness

Store
Stores a preset

Display
Changes the front-panel display

Switching on and off

When not playing, the 818 should be left in the standby state. This uses a minimal amount of electricity, but ensures that the components of the 818 operate at maximum efficiency from the moment you start.

If you are not going to use the 818 for several days you should switch the unit off completely at the rear panel, and disconnect it from the AC power supply.

To switch on from standby

- Press **Source** (front panel), or select a source on the remote.

If the 818 is part of a Meridian system it will automatically switch on any other units in the system, such as the 861 Reference Digital Surround Controller and Meridian DSP Loudspeakers.

To switch to standby

- Press **Off** (front panel or remote).

If you have other Meridian equipment or Meridian DSP Loudspeakers connected to the 818 these units will also switch to standby.

Selecting a source

The 818 responds to the following 12 source keys on the remote:

CD, Radio, DVD, Aux, Disc, Tape, TV, Cable, Sat, VCR1, VCR2, and Game.

The Aux source usually corresponds to the internal Sooloos interface and the VCR2 source usually corresponds to the USB input.

The input associated with each of the sources depends on how the 818 has been set up; for more information refer to the *Meridian Configuration Program Guide*.

Your installer may have customised the labels displayed for each source to suit your other equipment.

To select a source

- Press **Source** (front panel or under the front panel) until the display shows the source you want, or press the appropriate source key on the remote; eg **CD**.

The display shows the source and volume setting.

For example, if you select the Radio source:

The display shows:

The 818 mutes the sound while you change source.

To play music from a Sooloos system

Either:

- Press **Source** (front panel or under the front panel) until the display shows SLS, or press the **Aux** key on the remote.

Or:

- Select the 818 zone from the Sooloos controller.

You can then listen to music streamed from the Sooloos server.

The volume and mute controls on the Sooloos controller will operate the 818.

To control the Sooloos system

When the SLS source is selected you can control the Sooloos system from the 818 front panel controls.

- Press ▶II (front panel) or ■, II, and ▶ (remote) to control playback.
- Press I◀ or ▶I (front panel or remote) to step between tracks in the Sooloos play queue.

For more information please refer to the *Meridian Sooloos Network Card Guide*.

Adjusting the system volume

The 818 Reference Audio Core provides a volume control which can be adjusted from the front panel or remote control. The volume changes in precise steps of 1dB, where 9dB is equivalent to doubling the loudness. The current volume setting is displayed in dB on the front-panel display, and can be varied in the range 1 to 99dB.

When you first connect power to the 818 Reference Audio Core the volume is set to 65, which is similar to the mid-way position of the rotary volume control on a conventional preamplifier.

If the 818 is set up with variable outputs (see Choosing a standard setting, page 30) the analogue output level is varied, allowing the 818 to drive an amplifier or active loudspeakers. If the 818 is set up with fixed outputs the volume control is performed by the DSP loudspeakers.

To change the volume

- Press **Volume ▲** or **Volume ▼** (front panel), **Volume +** or **Volume -** (under the front panel), or the red ▲ or ▼ keys on the remote.

As you adjust the volume setting the display shows the current volume level.

For example:

To mute the sound

- Press **Mute** (front panel, remote, or under the front panel).

The display shows:

To restore the sound

- Press **Mute** again.

Alternatively, the sound will be restored if you adjust the volume.

Changing the treble or bass

The 818 Reference Audio Core provides sophisticated treble and bass controls, to allow you to adjust the broad balance of a Meridian DSP loudspeaker system to correct for the acoustics of your listening room, or for a misbalanced recording.

These controls are performed by the DSP loudspeakers, and are only available if your 818 Reference Audio Core is set up with fixed outputs.

The controls are more subtle than conventional tone controls, and take advantage of digital signal processing techniques to provide a more natural adjustment of the frequency response.

To change the treble

- Press ◀ or ▶ (remote or under the front panel) until the display shows the current treble.

For example:

- Press ▲ or ▼ (remote or under the front panel) to change the treble.

The treble control tilts the frequency of the response over the entire frequency range to make the sound brighter or dimmer. It can be adjusted between ±10db in 0.5dB steps. Normally settings between +1.0 and -2.0 will give the most natural results.

To change the bass

- Press ◀ or ▶ (remote or under the front panel) until the display shows the current bass setting.

For example:

- Press ▲ or ▼ (remote or under the front panel) to change the bass.

The bass control allows you to adjust the bass response in the room by ±5dB in 0.5dB steps. Normally settings between +3.0 and -2.0 will give the most natural results.

Changing the balance or phase

The 818 Reference Audio Core balance control uses digital signal processing to compensate for an off-centre listening position by delaying and diminishing the sound in one speaker, thus effectively shifting the speaker's image back.

You can also change the absolute phase of the signal, to compensate for signals which are out of phase, giving an unnatural-sounding bass.

If the 818 is set up with fixed outputs the balance control is performed by the DSP loudspeakers.

To change the balance

- Press ◀ or ▶ (remote or under the front panel) until the display shows the current balance.

For example:

- Press ▲ or ▼ (remote or under the front panel) to move the listening position.

The display shows the direction and position of the listening position.

For example:

The arrow indicates the direction, and the number indicates the position where 0 is central, 8 is in line with the corresponding main speaker, and 10 is fully to one side.

To change the phase

Either:

- Press ◀ or ▶ (remote or under the front panel) until the display shows the current phase.

For example:

- Press ▲ or ▼ (remote or under the front panel) or **Phase** (**Function** ▮▮ on the remote) to change the phase.

Or:

- Press **Phase** (**Function** ▮▮ on the remote).

The display will show the new phase setting.

For example:

Changing the loudness or subwoofer mode

The 818 Reference Audio Core allows you to control several other settings supported by recent Meridian DSP loudspeakers.

The **Loudness** control alters the frequency response to make music sound more natural when played at a low volume setting.

The **Mode** control changes the distribution of bass between the main speakers and the subwoofer to suit different types of material.

These controls are only available if you are connected to DSP loudspeakers that support them, using the SpeakerLink connection, and if SpeakerLink On mode is selected (see Setting up SpeakerLink, page 32).

Additional controls may be available as further SpeakerLink features are developed.

To change the loudness

- Press ◀ or ▶ (remote or under the front panel) until the display shows the current loudness setting.
- Press ▲ or ▼ (remote or under the front panel) to turn the loudness control on or off.

For example:

To select Music Mode or Movie Mode

- Press ◀ or ▶ (remote or under the front panel) until the display shows the current mode.

For example:

- Press ▲ or ▼ (remote or under the front panel) to select between Music Mode, recommended for classical music, and Movie Mode, recommended for movie soundtracks.

Loudspeaker setup controls

The 818 Reference Audio Core provides several controls to allow you to adjust DSP loudspeakers to suit the characteristics of your room.

The **Subwoofer** control adjusts the subwoofer crossover frequency and gain.

The **Location** control adjusts the sound to compensate for the placement of the main speakers.

The **Room Ht** control adjusts the speakers according to the height of your room.

The **EBC** control adjusts the sound to compensate for highly reflective walls.

The **EBA** control improves the bass alignment in DSP loudspeakers that support it. Note that the extra processing adds a time delay, so it should be disabled for video sources.

These controls are only available if you are connected to DSP loudspeakers that support them, using the SpeakerLink connection, and if SpeakerLink Setup mode is selected (see Setting up SpeakerLink, page 32).

To change the subwoofer crossover

- Press ◀ or ▶ (remote or under the front panel) until the display shows the current subwoofer mode.

For example:

- Press ▲ or ▼ (remote or under the front panel) to select between: **Off** (subwoofer off), **1** (80Hz crossover), or **2** (120Hz crossover).

To change the subwoofer gain

- Press ◀ or ▶ (remote or under the front panel) until the display shows the current subwoofer gain.

For example:

- Press ▲ or ▼ (remote or under the front panel) to adjust the relative subwoofer gain between **-15**, **0** (the normal setting), and **+15** in 1dB steps.

To specify the speaker location

- Press ◀ or ▶ (remote or under the front panel) until the display shows the current location setting.

For example:

Press ▲ or ▼ (remote or under the front panel) to choose between **Corner**, **Shelf**, **Wall**, or **Free** (free standing).

To specify the room height

- Press ◀ or ▶ (remote or under the front panel) until the display shows the current room height setting, in cm or in:

For example:

Or:

Choose whichever units you prefer to work in.

- Press ▲ or ▼ (remote or under the front panel) to specify the height of your room. You can adjust it between 150cm/58in and 400cm/158in in steps of 5cm/2in.

To specify Enhanced Boundary Control

- Press ◀ or ▶ (remote or under the front panel) until the display shows the current EBC setting.

For example:

- Press ▲ or ▼ (remote or under the front panel) to specify how reflective the room surfaces are. Choose between **Off** (unreflective), **Min**, **Med**, or **Max** (highly reflective).

To specify Enhanced Bass Alignment

- Press ◀ or ▶ (remote or under the front panel) until the display shows the current EBA setting.

For example:

- Press ▲ or ▼ (remote or under the front panel) to choose between **On** or **Off**.

Changing the front-panel display

The 818 Reference Audio Core displays information and settings on the 20-character front-panel display.

You can adjust the contrast and brightness of the front-panel display for optimum viewing, and choose what information is displayed.

To change the contrast or brightness

- Press ◀ or ▶ (remote or under the front panel), until the display shows the current contrast or brightness.

For example:

- Press ▲ or ▼ (remote or under the front panel), to change the selected setting.

You can change the contrast or brightness between 0 and 15.

To change the displayed information

- Press **Display** (remote or under the front panel).

Each time you press **Display** the display will step between the following options:

Display option	Example
Source and volume	
Audio format	
Blank	

If the **Diagnostic displays** option has been selected, additional diagnostic displays are included.

Installing the 818 Reference Audio Core

This chapter explains how to install the 818 Reference Audio Core. It describes what you should find when you unpack the product, and how you should connect it to the other equipment in the system.

You should not make any connections to the product or to any other component in the system while the AC power supply is connected and switched on.

Unpacking

The 818 Reference Audio Core is supplied with the following accessories:

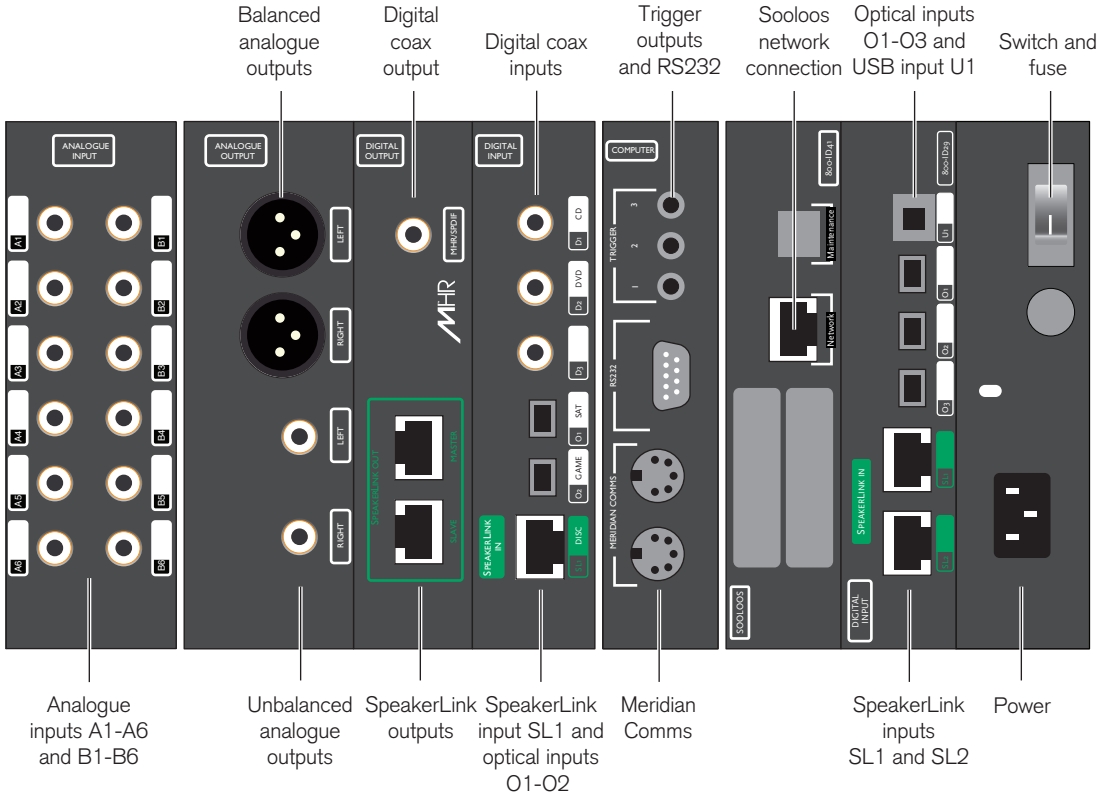
- MSR+ remote control with batteries, manual, and spare key caps.
- Meridian Comms lead.
- Power cord.
- This manual.

If any of these items are missing please contact your retailer.

NOTE: You should retain the packaging in case you need to transport the unit.

Back panel

The following diagram gives details of the back panel connections:



Audio outputs

Use this output	To connect to this
BALANCED OUT	The balanced analogue inputs of a preamplifier, or a power amplifier such as the G57, using XLR leads.
ANALOGUE OUT	The unbalanced analogue inputs of a preamplifier, or a power amplifier such as the G57, using analogue phono leads.
DIGITAL OUT	The digital input of a surround processor, such as the 861 Reference Digital Surround Controller, or DSP loudspeakers, using a 75Ω digital cable.
MERIDIAN SPEAKERLINK	DSP Loudspeakers with Meridian SpeakerLink connectors, using SpeakerLink leads. Use the upper socket for the Master speaker.

Audio inputs

Use this input	To connect to this
ANALOGUE IN A1+A2 (Radio), A3+A4 (TV), A5+A6 (Cable), B1+B2 (Tape), B3+B4 (VCR1), B5+B6*	The analogue outputs of a source, such as a TV or tape deck.
DIGITAL INPUT D1 (CD), D2 (DVD), D3	The digital output of a source such as a DVD player.
SPEAKERLINK INPUT SL1 (Disc), SL1, SL2 (on ID29 card)	The SpeakerLink output of a Meridian source, using a Meridian SpeakerLink lead.

* In each case the odd-numbered input is the left channel and the even-numbered is the right channel.

Audio inputs (continued)

Use this input	To connect to this
OPTICAL INPUT O1 (Sat), O2 (Game), O1, O2, O3 (on ID29 card)	The optical output of a source such as a satellite receiver.
USB INPUT U1 (VCR2) (on ID29 card)	A personal computer USB socket.
NETWORK (Aux)	A Meridian Sooloos Digital Media System.

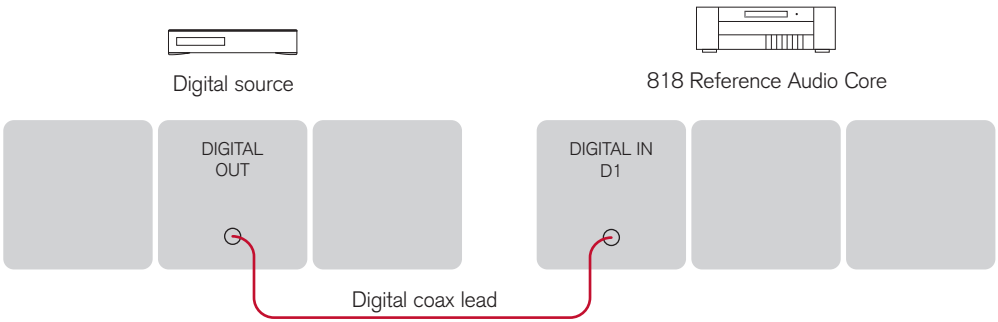
The default assignment of the source to each input is shown in brackets after the input name in the above table.

Communications connections

Use this connection	To connect to this
MERIDIAN COMMS	Other Meridian equipment, or Meridian DSP loudspeakers.
RS232 connection	A computer, for configuring the 818, or a serial control system.
TRIGGER OUTPUT 1, 2, 3	Equipment to be triggered by a 12V 100mA signal.

Applications

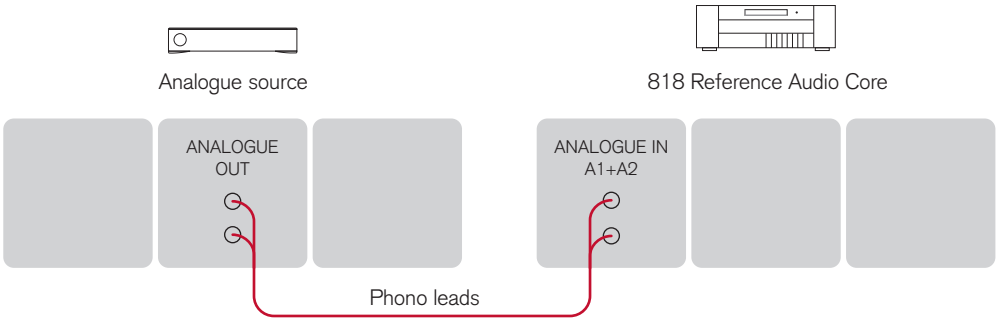
To connect to a digital source (eg DVD player)



You can connect up to three digital coax inputs and five digital optical inputs to the 818 Reference Audio Core.

- Connect the digital source to an appropriate digital input socket on the 818, using either screened coax phono leads, or a Toslink lead.

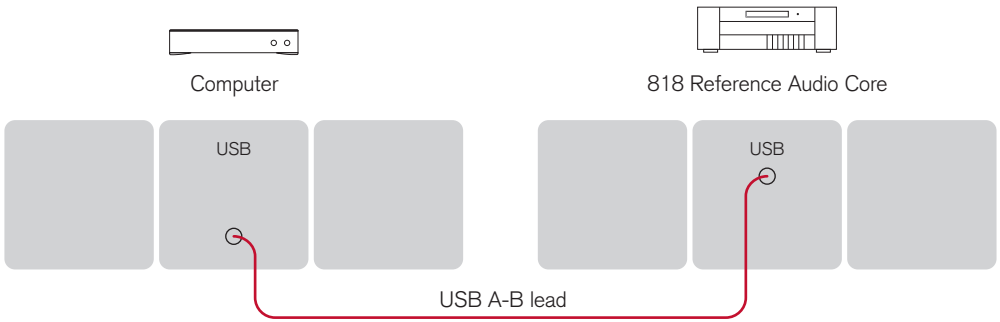
To connect to an analogue source (eg TV tuner)



You can connect up to six analogue sources to the 818 Reference Audio Core

- Connect the analogue source to one of the analogue input sockets of the 818, using screened coax phono leads.

To connect to a computer via USB



You can connect the 818 Reference Audio Core to a PC or Macintosh USB socket to allow you to use the 818 as a digital audio output device.

On a PC, Windows XP/SP2 or later is required. Note that you must install the drivers (available from your Meridian dealer or http://www.meridian-audio.com) before you connect the product to a Windows PC.

On a Macintosh, OS X 10.4 or later is recommended. Appropriate drivers will be installed automatically when you connect for the first time.

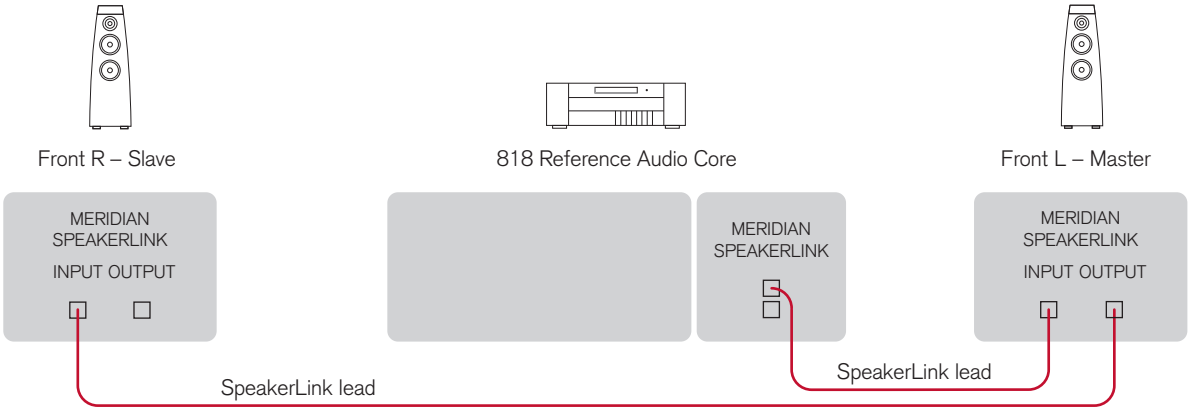
Linux computers that support USB Audio Class 2.0 drivers can also be used.

When the 818 is plugged in to the computer it will appear as a sound output device called **Meridian ID29 Output** in the **Sound** control panel (PC) or **Sound** System Preferences panel (Macintosh).

The source will be labelled VCR2, unless it has been given a custom label.

Note: The computer volume control will continue to work as expected, but for highest quality you should set it to maximum and use the Meridian volume control in the 818 instead.

To connect to DSP loudspeakers using SpeakerLink (daisy chain)



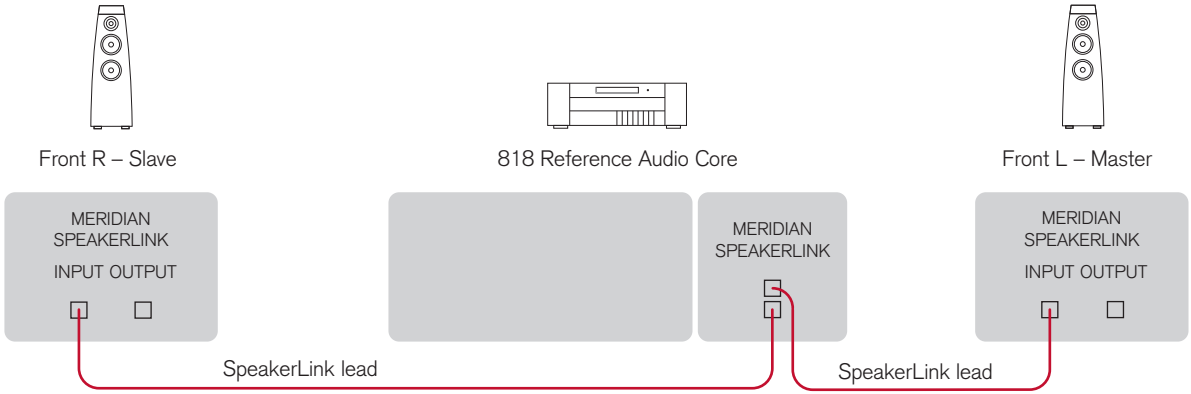
The 818 can be connected directly to Meridian DSP loudspeakers to create a complete stereo system, with volume and other preamplifier controls provided by the loudspeakers via the MSR+ or the front panel.

The Meridian SpeakerLink connection provides both two-channel digital audio and Meridian Comms control.

This is an alternative to the “home run” wiring configuration shown in the next section.

- Connect the upper SpeakerLink output from the 818 to the SpeakerLink input on the DSP loudspeaker chosen as the Master, using a SpeakerLink lead.
- Connect the SpeakerLink output from the Master DSP loudspeaker to the SpeakerLink input on the other (Slave) DSP loudspeaker, using a second SpeakerLink lead.
- Configure the loudspeakers as described in the *Meridian DSP Loudspeaker User Guide*.

To connect to DSP loudspeakers using SpeakerLink (home run)



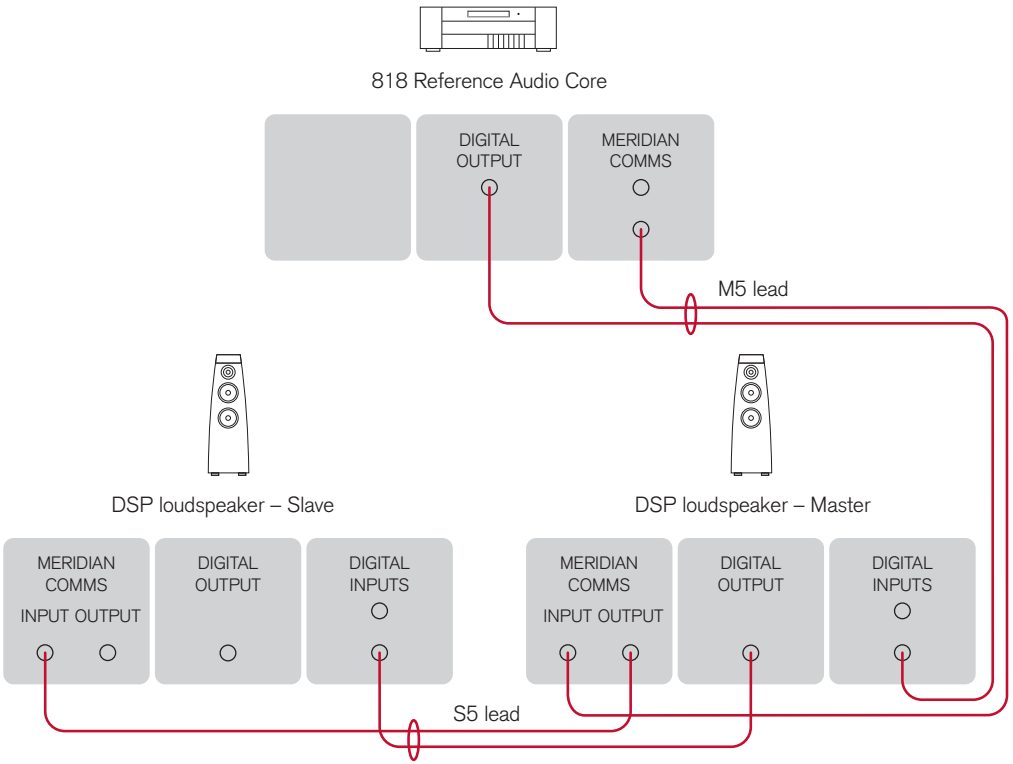
The 818 can be connected directly to Meridian DSP loudspeakers to create a complete stereo system, with volume and other preamplifier controls provided by the loudspeakers via the MSR+ or the front panel.

The Meridian SpeakerLink connection provides both two-channel digital audio and Meridian Comms control.

This is an alternative to the “daisy chain” wiring configuration shown in the previous section.

- Connect the upper SpeakerLink output from the 818 to the SpeakerLink input on the DSP loudspeaker chosen as the Master, using a SpeakerLink lead.
- Connect the lower SpeakerLink output from the 818 to the SpeakerLink input on the other (Slave) DSP loudspeaker, using a second SpeakerLink lead.
- Configure the loudspeakers as described in the *Meridian DSP Loudspeaker User Guide*.

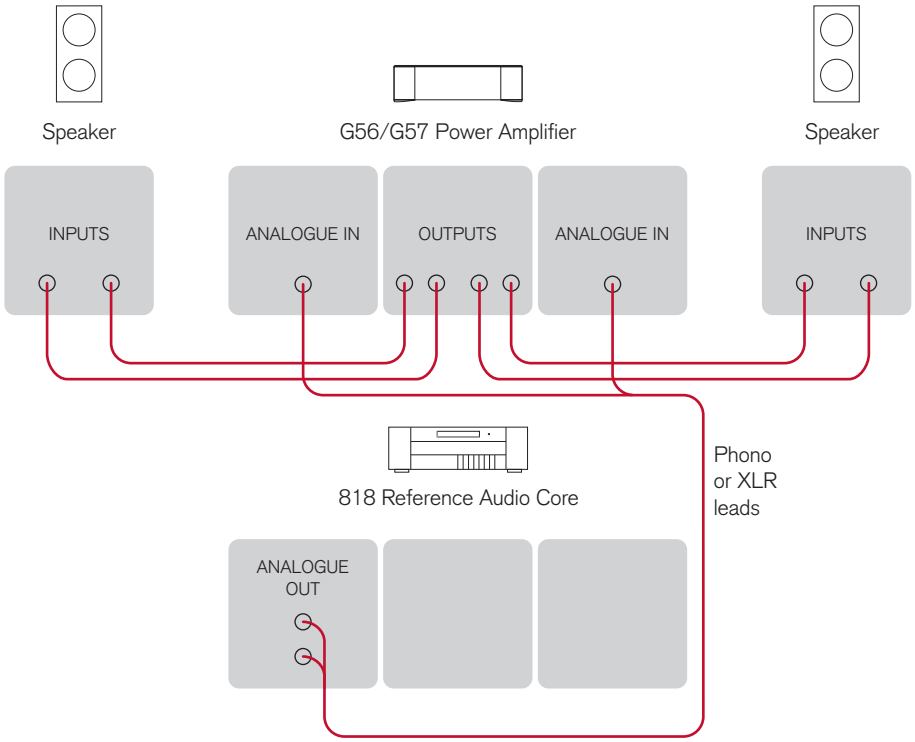
To connect to DSP loudspeakers using the digital and Comms connections



If your DSP loudspeakers do not provide Meridian SpeakerLink connections you can connect to them using the Digital and Meridian Comms connections.

- Connect the DIGITAL OUTPUT and a COMMS socket from the 818 to DIGITAL INPUT 1 and the COMMS input on the DSP loudspeaker chosen as the Master, using an M5 lead.
- Connect the DIGITAL and COMMS outputs from the Master DSP loudspeaker to DIGITAL INPUT 1 and the COMMS input on the other (Slave) DSP loudspeaker, using an S5 lead.
- Configure the loudspeakers as described in the *Meridian DSP Loudspeaker User Guide*.

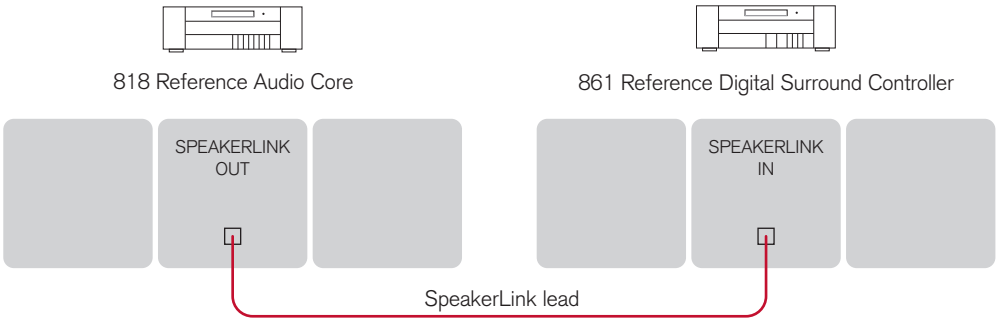
To connect to a power amplifier



The 818 analogue outputs allow you to connect to a pair of analogue active loudspeakers, or to analogue passive loudspeakers via a power amplifier.

- Connect the balanced or unbalanced ANALOGUE OUTPUT connections from the 818 to the inputs of the analogue active loudspeakers or power amplifier.

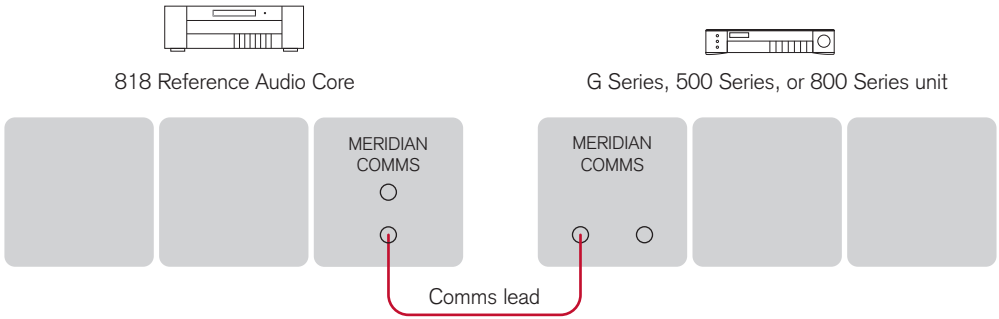
To connect to an 861 Reference Digital Surround Controller



You can use the 818's SpeakerLink outputs to connect to other Meridian products, such as the 861 Reference Surround Controller.

- Connect the SpeakerLink output from the 818 to the SpeakerLink input on the 861, using a SpeakerLink lead.

To connect to other Meridian G Series or 800 Series equipment



In a system of Meridian products, one of the products acts as the controller for the system, receiving infra-red commands from the MSR+ and then, if appropriate, relaying them to the other products via the Comms link.

The following automatic setup procedure should be used to set up the Comms correctly between several products:

- Connect one of the DIN COMMS sockets on the back panel of the 818 to one of the COMMS sockets on another G Series, 500 Series, or 800 Series unit, using the Comms leads provided with the products.

The sequence in which you connect the units is not important.

- Switch all the units to standby.
- Press **Clear** (remote).

Each unit will display: Auto

One unit will then be designated as the controller.

The display shows: Controller

All the other units will be configured as non-controllers.

The displays show: Not Con.

If for any reason the automatic setup does not work, make sure you are operating the remote from a position where all the units can receive the infra-red, and try again.

If this fails:

- Restore the default operation by selecting one of the standard types; see *Choosing a standard setting*, page 30.

Do not, under any circumstances, connect any equipment other than Meridian G Series or 800 Series to any socket marked COMMS on the back of the product.

Configuring the 818 Reference Audio Core

This chapter explains how to set up the 818 Reference Audio Core for most standard configurations of your other equipment, using just the front-panel controls and MSR+.

For complete control over all aspects of the 818's configuration it is recommended that you use the Meridian Configuration Program; for more information see *Installing the Meridian Configuration Application*, page 33.

Choosing a standard setting

The 818 provides two standard settings, called Types, which configure all aspects of the 818 into standard configurations.

These standard Types are shown in the following table:

Type	Label	Description
1	**Fixed**	Fixed output, for use with Meridian DSP loudspeakers.
2	**Variable**	Variable output, for use with power amplifiers and analogue speakers.

In addition, your installer may have provided one or more named User Types, with settings appropriate to the configuration of equipment when your 818 was installed.

You can reset the configuration of the 818 to any of these Types to restore it to the state it was in when it was installed. **Note:** Selecting a Type will clear any configuration changes you have made.

To select a standard setting

Warning: this procedure will reset any configuration changes you have made.

- Switch off any power amplifiers that are connected to the 818 and put any digital speakers into standby.
- Put the 818 into standby by pressing **Off** (front panel or remote).
- Press and hold down **Volume +** (under the front panel).

The display shows:

- Keep holding down **Volume +** for a further three seconds.

The display shows:

Then after a short delay the display shows the current Type.

For example:

- Press ▲ or ▼ on the front panel to change the Type number.

The display shows:

- Wait for one second, and then put the 818 into standby by pressing **Off** (front panel or remote).
- Switch on again to use the standard settings you have selected.

Setting up sources

This section explains how to use Gain mode to set up the analogue sources connected to the 818.

To turn on Gain mode

- Put the 818 into standby by pressing **Off** (front panel or remote).
- Press and hold the **Volume -** key (under the front panel) for at least five seconds.

The display shows: Gain On

The 818 will then return to standby with Gain mode turned on.

Gain mode adds an extra **Sensitivity** option to the menus.

To turn off Gain mode

- Repeat the above procedure.

The display shows: Gain Off

To adjust the sensitivity of a source

To obtain the best signal-to-noise ratio for your analogue sources you can adjust the sensitivity of each input to give the highest level that does not produce clipping.

- Turn on Gain mode, as described above.
- Select the source you want to adjust, with loud source material playing.
- Press ◀ or ▶ (remote or under the front panel) until the display shows the current sensitivity.

For example: Radio 2.0V In

- Press ▲ or ▼ (remote or under the front panel) to change the sensitivity.

You can select between sensitivities of 0.5V (most sensitive), 1.0V, 2.0V, or 2.5V (least sensitive).

If the sensitivity is set too high the input will clip the loudest passages. The display shows:

For example: Radio 0.5V In Clip

In this case reduce the sensitivity.

If you have selected a digital source you cannot adjust the sensitivity. The display shows:

For example: CD Not Analogue

Setting up SpeakerLink

The digital and SpeakerLink outputs provide control information to DSP loudspeakers, together with the digital audio.

If you are connecting the digital or SpeakerLink output to a digital input that does not support SpeakerLink you should turn SpeakerLink off.

You can also enable a SpeakerLink Setup mode which provides additional menus for configuring DSP loudspeakers. For more information see *Loudspeaker setup controls*, page 14

To set up SpeakerLink

- Press **Setup** under the front panel to show the current setting.

For example:

- Press **Setup** again to step between the options: **Off**, **On** (Meridian SpeakerLink speakers), or **Setup** (Meridian SpeakerLink speakers plus setup controls).

Installing the Meridian Configuration Application

The Meridian Configuration Application is not included with this product.

The application should be installed from the Internet.

Requirements

To use the Meridian Configuration Application you need:

- A computer running Windows 95, 98, 2000, NT 4, ME, XP, Vista, or Windows 7.
- 10Mbytes of free disk space.
- A 9-pin serial port or suitable serial adaptor (such as USB-Serial, PC Card, etc).
- A mouse or similar pointing device – the application cannot be operated solely from the keyboard.

The Meridian Configuration Application communicates with the products you are setting up via a serial cable.

You can connect the product to a 9-pin serial port on the computer.

Alternatively, a USB-to-serial converter, available from most computer retailers, can be used to connect between the product and a USB port on the computer.

Installation

To install the application you will need a computer that is connected to the Internet.

- Type the following URL into the address bar of a Web browser:

http://www.meridian-audio.com/download/setup.exe

If you are asked whether to Run or Save the application:

- Click **Run**.

Otherwise:

- Run the setup.exe application once it has downloaded.

The **Setup** application's **Welcome** page will be displayed.

- Follow the instructions.

On the **Preferences** page:

- Leave **Install for all users** selected, unless you want to restrict use of the application to yourself on a multi-user machine.

User guide

You can download an electronic copy of the *Meridian Configuration Program Guide* in Acrobat format from the following URL:

http://www.meridian-audio.com/media/107004/meridian-config-guide.pdf

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